

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | | |
|------------|---|----------|------------------|
| Applicant | : Isamu Kobori, et al. | Art Unit | : 2822 |
| Serial No. | : 10/713,275 | Examiner | : Kiesha L. Rose |
| Filed | : November 17, 2003 | | |
| Title | : METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A SEMICONDUCTOR METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A THIN-FILM TRANSISTOR AND THIN-FILM TRANSISTOR | | |

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

Claims 16-32 are pending in the application, with claims 16, 21 and 26 being independent.

Claims 16-32 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,133) in view of Ogawa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,670,297). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because one of ordinary skill in the art would have had no motivation to combine Yamazaki and Ogawa in the manner set forth in the rejection.

As set forth in applicant's prior response, and as acknowledged by the Examiner, Yamazaki does not describe or suggest a second interlayer insulating film provided over the conductive layer to provide a leveled upper surface over the semiconductor layer, as recited in each of the independent claims. While Yamazaki describes a passivation film 528, this film, as shown in Fig. 5G of Yamazaki, does not have a leveled upper surface.

Recognizing that Yamazaki does not show this aspect of the claims, the rejection turns to Fig. 8 of Ogawa, and argues that Ogawa shows a second interlayer insulating film (28) formed over a conductive layer (24/26) to provide a leveled upper surface over a semiconductor layer. The rejection further argues that the leveled upper surface is formed to allow for other layers to be formed thereon, such as another conductive layer or interlayer insulating film, and that motivation to combine Yamazaki and Ogawa would have resulted from a desire to allow for the formation of other layers on the leveled upper surface.

However, after reviewing Ogawa, applicant has been unable to find any indication in Ogawa that the film 28 should have a leveled upper surface in order to allow for other layers to

be formed on the film. As such, the motivation set forth in the rejection is lacking, and there would have been no motivation to combine the references for at least this reason.

In addition, even if Ogawa had indicated that it would be desirable to level the upper surface of the film 28 in order to form layers on top of it, this would have provided no motivation to modify the passivation film 528 of Yamazaki's Figs. 5 and 6, since Yamazaki provides no indication that further layers are to be provided on the passivation film. Moreover, Ogawa is directed to a device that is substantially different from the electro-optical device of Yamazaki and, as such, one of ordinary skill in the art would have had no reason to turn to Ogawa for the purpose of modifying the device of Yamazaki. Accordingly, there would have been no motivation to combine these references for at least these additional reasons.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

12/20/05



John F. Hayden
Reg. No. 37,640

Customer No. 26171
Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W. - 11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331
40316049.doc